

Outword

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magazine

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ISSUE

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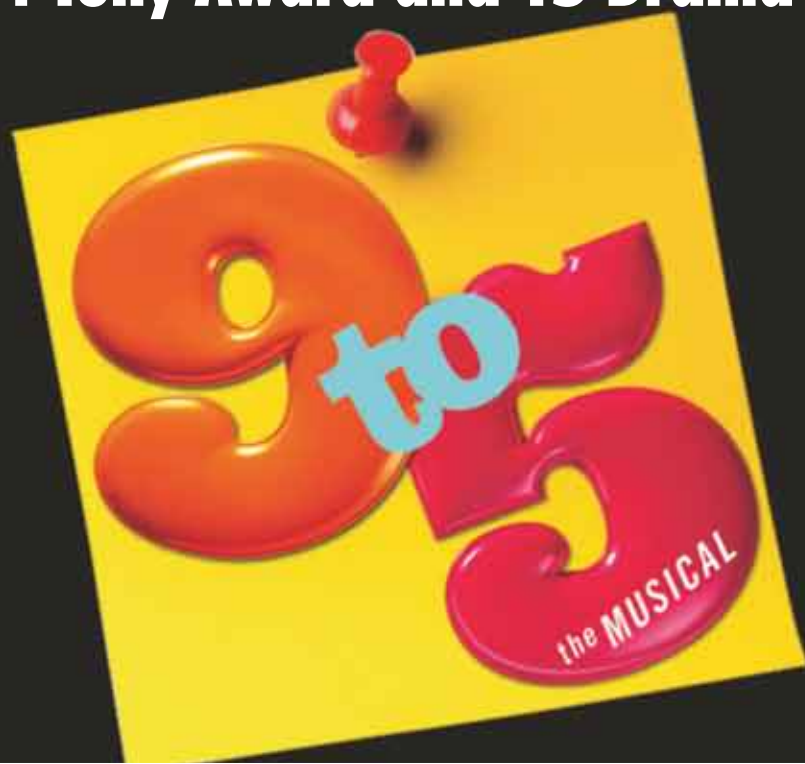
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Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
Nat. Lesbian & Gay Journalist Association
Midtown Business Association
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Letters

Thank-you Drag Queen Bingo!

Dear Outword,

On behalf of the Sacramento chapter of The Vasculitis Foundation, I would like to personally thank *Outword Magazine*, its staff as well as Hamburger Patties and their staff, for giving us the opportunity to form a partnership with you.

In being chosen to co-host Drag Queen Bingo, we were able to promote our organization's goals with all those in attendance at the event as well as those reading about us in your newspaper.

On the night of the event, we were amazed to have a couple of the players come up to us after the

games were over and tell us that one of them has a friend whose father has Vasculitis.

Also, another person came up to us and thanked us for getting the word out about not so common diseases. She has a disease called Chiari, which is a disease of the brain. They have formed a group called zipperheads, which got its name from the scars they have on the back of their heads.

Through the opportunities you have given the greater Sacramento community, we are able to spread the word about these support groups that are available. Thank-you very much for THAT opportunity.

Once again, on behalf of The Vasculitis Foundation, thank-you

very much for the fun and profitable evening.

Charles Mirrione
The Vasculitis Foundation

Volunteers & Planners Wanted for 2011 Lambda Awards

The Center has traditionally produced the Lambda Awards as a way to feature and thank persons in the community who have contributed in some special way to the mission of the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center.

The Awards event will be held again this fall, and this is a special year as it is time to celebrate 25 years of community service by the Center.

The first planning meeting has already been held, and subcommittees are being formed to plan the event.

Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee for this important event. Contact the Center at 916-442-0185 or e-mail Luis. Gomez@SacCenter.org.

Center is inviting the public to a series of meetings about Sacramento Pride 2011 events to be held on Saturday, June 4.

Meetings will be on the third Wednesdays of February, March, April and May to let the gay and lesbian community know about this year's parade and other exciting events, to solicit feedback and generate interest in the most important fund-raising event of the year for the non-profit center.

The meetings will be held at the SG&L Center, 1927 L Street, Sacramento, from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. on February 16, March 16, April 20 and May 18.

The Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center serves the LGBT community of the greater Sacramento region by providing space, diverse programming, advocacy and awareness in an affirmative and safe environment.

For more information, contact the Center at 916-442-0185 or pride@sacmentopride.org.



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Dynasty's Dynamic Duelling Duo Barbiefied

They may be hand in hand now, but these two have were once TV land's most bitter rivals, and staged some of the most memorable – and looking back, funniest – cat fights in the history of TV.

In honor of Dynasty's 30th anniversary, Barbie® celebrates two of the show's most iconic characters, Joan Collins as Alexis and Linda Evans as Krystle.

Embodying the sass and wicked streak in Alexis, Barbie® makes a bold statement in her golden gown and glittery jewelry. Brown wavy hair and dramatic face paint perfectly capture the character's allure and deviousness.



Never to be out-done, the chic style and glamorous beauty of Krystle Barbie® are captured as she wears a stunning white gown inspired by the show's original Nolan Miller designs. Blonde, sleek, and oh-so-stylish, she sparkles in jewels that dazzle and delight.

Now if they would just bring out a Steve Carrington (the gay, blonde version) Ken Doll, our collections would be complete! Visit www.barbiecollector.com to get your own (sold separately).

Illinois Enacts Civil Union Act

Governor Pat Quinn has signed into law the Illinois Religious Freedom and Protection and Civil Union Act, making civil unions available for same-sex couples in Illinois.

The law, drafted by lawyers with the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, marks an important step toward fairness for thousands of gay and lesbian couples in Illinois. Illinois now joins a growing list of states across the country that provide legal protections to the unions of same-sex couples.

The new law, signed by the governor on Jan. 31, permits Illinois couples – including those of the same sex – to enter into a legal relationship that provides them all the basic legal protections and responsibilities currently offered only to different-sex couples through marriage.

"Illinois is taking a historic step forward in embracing fairness and

ILLINOIS
continues on page 22

Vandals Take the "Equality" Out of Marriage



Vandals cut the word "equality" from a banner that had read "This Church Supports Marriage Equality" at the Hollywood United Methodist Church on Jan. 31. The church plans on replacing the banner, and as HUMC member Chad Darnell said, "you can cut the word 'equality' out of the sign, but you can't cut the message out of the church!" Visit HollywoodUMC.org.

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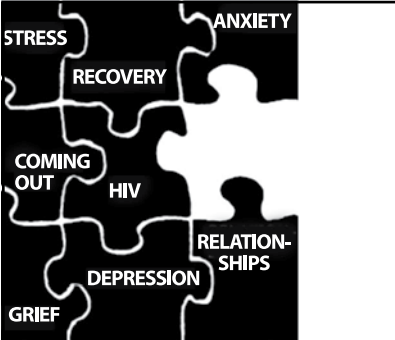
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Faith Matters: In the Binding of Hearts

by The Reverend Kathy La Point-Collup

February is the month of love. Love your partner – go for walks, read a book or go to a movie together, cook a favorite dinner together, improve the world and volunteer together, worship together!

In a recent worship, we celebrated the 59th wedding anniversary of a special couple in our church community – what a milestone!

Fifty-nine years of love, perseverance, joy, sorrow, trial, challenge, humor and commitment. Anyone who has been married knows that the love and chemistry that brings a couple to wed changes and transforms as the marriage matures.

For most couples, there are times in the marriage where love is a decision – a decision to continue to treat our partner in a loving, caring manner even when we might not feel particularly loving toward him/her. Marriage vows help us to honor that decision.

Then there are times when we feel so absolutely in love with our partner that we can't imagine life without him/her. Again, because we are committed to honoring our vows, our relationship endures so we can experience those times of

second, third, and twentieth times of falling in love with our partner all over again.

As a pastor, I have been privileged to be a part of many celebrations of love and marriage – the actual wedding, the renewal of vows, and when our state is in a discriminatory mode, Holy Unions for those who are unable to legally marry.

In all those celebrations, the key is the willingness of two people to declare publicly before God and

the gathered people their love and commitment for one another, and to promise, with the help of God's Spirit, to be loyal and faithful to each other.

God and the gathered community provide each couple with the grace, love and support they need to keep those vows. I like to remind guests at a wedding that they have a special role to play in the life of the couple who stands before them – it is their responsibility to pray for the couple and to assist them in keeping their promises by supporting their marriage commitment.

BINDINGS

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Community Profile

words and photo by Bonnie Osborn

Local Attorney On Mission

Jacques Whitfield is on a mission. After living most of his life convinced that he could never reveal to the world the person he really was, in 2003, at age 40, he came out as a gay man – changing the lives of his wife and three children forever, but ultimately finding himself.

Now he is on a personal mission to convince his closeted friends that “on the other side of that fence is love, acceptance and completeness.”

“Living in the closet was tormenting,” he recalls.

Whitfield knew from the time he was seven years old that he was different. Born in New York, he moved as a young child to North Carolina, where his mother’s family were pillars of their community with strong roots in the church.

Whitfield’s father was from the Caribbean, and Whitfield was raised Roman Catholic; his mother would later become an Evangelical minister. “It took me a while to adopt my Southern heritage,” he says. “We were transplants and spent most summers in the east.”

He remembers being bullied about being a sissy in junior high PE class. His mother, concerned he was not like his older brother, sent him to stay for a summer with relatives who had a farm, “to toughen me up.” “It was a horrible experience.”

“My family was not anti-gay,” he says. “It was the ‘70s. My mom was a former model before becoming a minister. I can remember my mom having gay friends. But it was just understood that nobody in my family could be gay. There was an expectation that you would be a God-fearing Catholic, get married, and have kids. Being gay was not an option.”

“I knew I was different, whether because of my family, or because I thought I liked boys. I was so overwhelmed by who my family was, the only thing I could do was to retreat into conformity and become an over-achiever.”

Whitfield graduated cum laude from Wake Forest University and spent a semester studying at the University de Dijon in France. He graduated with a law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1988 and joined a corporate law firm in Los Angeles. In L.A. he met someone, and for the first time, tried living as an out gay man. The guy broke his heart. “So I said ‘it was just an experiment; I’m not meant to be gay,’” he says.

He got involved in the church, and a short time later met his future wife, Nikki. “We did everything the right way because we were friends first, then fell in love,” he recalls. “When we got married on June 12, 1993, I believed I was getting married for the right reasons.”

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home office and confronted him. The couple turned to their pastor for help.

For the next four years Whitfield went to reparative therapy, Exodus International at Sunrise Community Church. “I went to individual counseling, therapy, retreats – I tried; Nikki and I both tried,” he says.

“Those were the worst periods for



Jacques Whitfield at his law office.

By mid-1996 things had started unraveling, though. He had a son by then, and his daughter was born in 1997. He had moved his young family to Sacramento. “But there was this increasingly overwhelming desire to have a relationship with a man,” he says. “I couldn’t reconcile the two. That was the part that was absolutely tormenting. I’m not proud to say I had an extra-marital relationship. I went to therapy to deal with it. The therapist said, ‘Have you considered the possibility that you are gay?’

“I could not accept that because of my family. I thought the minute I become gay I become a failure. My parents had divorced. When Nikki and I got married we promised we were going to be together.”

Then, in November 1999, Nikki found a journal he had left out in his

my life and for our marriage, but the best thing that happened to me, because it brought me to the decision point that I am gay, and God made me that way.

One day in 2003 he found the courage to say it out loud for the first time and told Nikki, “I am gay.” “She said, ‘Thank you.’ We cried and laughed. We didn’t know what to do because our path is a different one. I think that really saved our friendship, the full disclosure. We realized that we loved our kids. She probably believed more than me that being gay was not bad, just unfortunate that her husband was gay.

“We tried to find someone to give us

MISSION

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Health Fair Addresses HIV/AIDS in the Black Community



Recognizing that it takes a village to fight HIV/AIDS, members of Sacramento’s Black community held a Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Health Fair on Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Oak Park Methodist Church. Organizations attending the fair included Golden Rules Services, Harm Reduction Services, C.A.R.E.S. and Sunburst Project. The Fair featured speakers, a display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, live entertainment, kids games raffle prizes and some great BBQ.

Mission continued from page 7

guidance. What now? We couldn’t find that person, so we did it on our own. We love the kids, love one another, but it’s best that we divorce because I love you and you should be with someone who can love you completely. Our lawyer said she had never seen a more amicable divorce. The term we use is ‘positive parent partners.’ We have good days and bad days, but our children come first.”

He speaks with immense pride of his children. His daughter, who is straight, is vice president of the McClatchy High School Gay Straight Alliance. His sons, ages 13 and 10, are both athletes and popular with classmates. “One of the things I like the most is that they defend the rights of others. They don’t tolerate others saying disparaging things about other kids; they are very protective. I think that’s a credit to how both me and Nikki have raised them.”

When he finally came out to his family – the family in which it was understood one could not be gay – it was anticlimatic. “They said, ‘We knew; we have always known, and we love you anyway.’ I was mad there wasn’t more drama. I said why didn’t I do this year ago? My whole family was very loving.”

And so Whitfield is on a mission. He feels his experiences qualify him to be an ambassador and a bridge to other communities as well. “If I can come out, anyone can come out,” he says. “I don’t want somebody to have to wait ‘til age 40 to come out.

“I have encountered some of my colleagues who are not out, who are African-American, who have high religious and traditional thresholds to overcome. Even though I grew up in church and have been active in church, I was always troubled by how they treated other people. I think God is a God of love and loves everybody. I think that should be the message we give school people, total acceptance and unconditional love.

“I think I can use my voice effectively to encourage others to be involved in the community. It’s appalling when you’re going to events, and you can count the number of people of color on one hand. We know they are there and have lots to contribute.

“The gay community in Sacramento is absolutely wonderful. They welcomed me with open arms. That’s why I am one of its biggest fans. Other communities – New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta – are different.

Sacramento is so welcoming. I think that we are a unified community. For me as a black, openly gay man, I feel very loved and accepted.”

Today, Whitfield is a successful attorney and serves as managing director of Sacramento business consulting firm The Sterling Group Ltd. He served as General Counsel of the Grant Joint Union High School District from 1997 to 2008. He currently serves on the boards of Equality California and CARES and participates in the “Positively Speaking” program, which targets students from kindergarten through university with HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness messages. He is a former president of the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center board.

“I think all of us who are active and out have an obligation to do outreach and help people who don’t know what’s on the other side and to build bridges and start where we are in honesty. Don’t be afraid. I don’t want somebody to have to wait ‘til age 40 to come out.

“My whole life quest was to be authentic. I have found that when people are true to themselves there is a generous response from others; there has to be acceptance.”

Outword Salutes Sacramento’s Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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2011 All-Chamber Ski Networking Saturday, March 19, 2011

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Sing Me a Love Song

The best part of February is, of course, Valentine's Day, when we get to be all sappy about love and romance. And what better way to share your love, well, other than chocolate, than a love song. So we asked these folks what love song they would most like to sing to their beloved, or have them sing to them. Asked at Badlands.



Nikki Whitfield
*Have I Told You Lately that I
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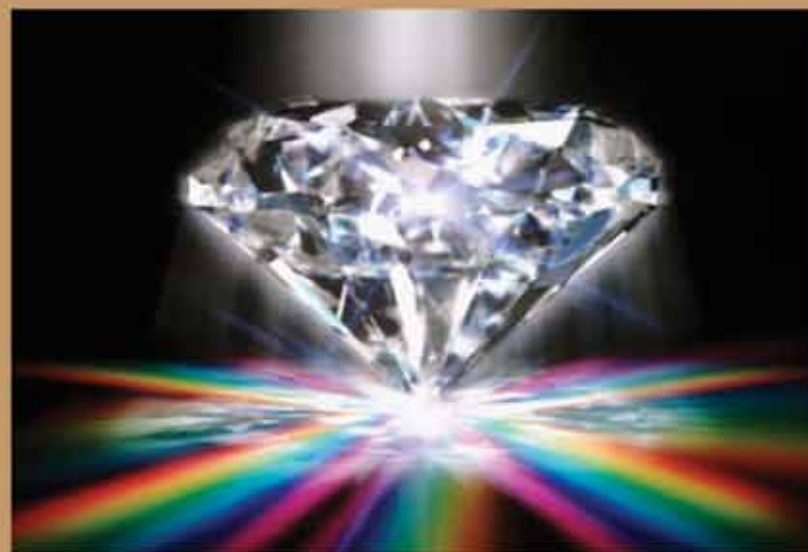
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See Evan Lysacek on the Big Screen

Rise, a special one-night event celebrating American figure skating will be broadcast live from the Best Buy Theater in New York City's Times Square to nearly 500 movie theaters nationwide on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 17.

Hosted by Matt Lauer of NBC's *The Today Show*, the live event will include unique choreographed figure skating performances, interviews with American figure skating legends, the premiere of the cinematic feature *RISE* and more.

Evan Lysacek, the 2010 Olympic gold medalist, and the *RISE* storytellers are among those scheduled to participate.

Tickets to the event and a listing of participating theatres are available online at www.FathomEvents.com.



Fantasies of Military Men in Dirty Words 3

Can you be naughty and nice at the same time? The Lavender Library may have found a way, with their series of erotic readings featuring some of the hottest, and sometimes naughtiest, men of Sacramento reading their favorite erotic fiction, and this time with a nod to the men in uniform.

The nice part is that these men will be reading these stories to help support the Lavender Library and The Lambda Players. The event traditionally features snacks, porn and

adult toy giveaways and the reading aloud of gay male erotic tales. However, this year the series will be bumped up a notch in the presentation department.

The venue has been moved to the Lambda Players' theatre to accommodate the changes, which will include a catered buffet, a no host bar, raffle prizes, guest readers and volunteers who will be performing in jockstraps – or perhaps less. The event will also be used to highlight Lambda's upcoming production of the much anticipated and erotically-charged *Poughkeepsie Porn Co. 2: The Velvet*

DIRTY
continues on page 22

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Choose a Diva this Valentine's Day Bernadette or Lesley Ann Warren?

Northern California diva-lovers will have two sexy stars to pick from this Valentine's Day. You can see Bernadette Peters live at Reno's Grand Sierra Resort and Casino that night, or catch Lesley Ann Warren at her Castro Theatre tribute in San Francisco.

Bernadette Peters

Fresh off her critically-acclaimed Broadway run as Desiree Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*, Bernadette Peters moves from the Big Apple to The Biggest Little City in the World for one night only on February 14.

The curly-haired diva will surely sing Stephen Sondheim's signature song from that show, "Send in the Clowns," on Valentine's Day, which should put your date for the night in just the right wistful, romantic mood.

Renowned as an interpreter of Broadway show tunes, Peters has memorably appeared in Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods*. The talented actress/singer also co-starred in two early Steve Martin films, the comedy *The Jerk* and the underrated Depression-

era musical *Pennies from Heaven*.

For more information, visit www.grandsierraresort.com.

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impresario Marc Huestis presents *A Victoria/Victoria* Valentine's Day - with star Lesley Ann Warren live in-person at San Francisco's historic Castro Theatre.

Golden Globe winner Warren will be interviewed by the diva-licious Miss Coco Peru, who will discuss the actress/singer's illustrious career, including her breakout performance in the 1965 film of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, as well as her Oscar-nominated portrayal of the dumb blonde bombshell in the late Blake Edwards' 1982 musical-comedy *Victor/Victoria*, which will be shown on the Castro's glorious silver screen as part of the event.

The evening will also include a clip reel of Ms. Warren's television and screen appearances, a tribute performance by Matthew Martin and an autograph signing with the star in the Castro mezzanine after the film.

This gala event occurs February 14 beginning at 6 p.m. with a meet & greet reception with Lesley Ann Warren, followed by the gala main event starting at 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.castrotheatre.com.



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Transgendered Pianist to Perform with Sacramento Philharmonic

When Maestro Michael Morgan picks up his baton to lead the Sacramento Philharmonic's next concert, *Basically Beethoven*, he will also be breaking new ground for the orchestra, welcoming transgendered pianist Sara Davis Buechner as the featured guest artist in a performance of Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 24*.

Known for her multifaceted playing power and artistic dexterity, Buechner is the winner of numerous international piano competitions, and her somewhat controversial personal story, as well as its connection to the classical music community at large, has been featured in publications around the world.

Born David Buechner, the pianist knew at an early age that she was different. "On the playground, boys yelled 'David's a girl' and I'd think, 'You got that right,'" she told the *New York Times*.

In 1998, at the age of 39, Buechner came out as transgendered, causing a mild ripple in the world of classical music, and severely affecting her career.

As David she was performing upwards of 50 concerts a year, including concerts in New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland and San Francisco. But as Sara, she was unable to get any major bookings. "Apart from local gigs, from 1998 to 2003, I did three to five concerts a year," she told the *Times*.

A chance encounter with a former Juilliard classmate, Carrie Feiner, helped change that, though. Feiner offered to help her get more bookings, and slowly helped her recapture her former career. With her confidence building, Buechner applied for a professor position with the University of British Columbia, where she was accepted and is now tenured and much sought after by music students.

The position also helped re-launch her career, and today, she is a successful recording artist as well as a soloist and performer with symphonies across North America, including performances with the Buffalo, Oakland and Seattle philharmonics and in Canada with the Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Vancouver, Victoria symphonies and the CBC Radio orchestra. She now is performing in more than 60 concerts a year, more than she did as David.

She was also fortunate, as a Canadian transplant from her home in New York, to be able to marry in 2005 the Japanese woman who had been her translator when she was touring as David in Japan.

Today, her reviews seldom

mention David. "If I changed as a person, I didn't lose my good parts ... my devilish sense of humor, my rakish good looks. I don't think I look 50," she told the *Times*, with just a bit of a sardonic smile.

Buechner will be performing with The Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra in their annual tribute to Beethoven. The repertoire, conducted by Maestro Michael Morgan, includes Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7*, Milhaud's *The Creation of the World* as well as Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 24*.

As part of the Beethoven tribute weekend, *Beethoven & Beyond*, a family-friendly Target Family Concert matinee will be held on Sunday afternoon, featuring musical and themed activities in the lobby. A performance by the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra and B Street Theatre will follow shortly thereafter. *Beethoven & Beyond* will be free for all children under 12 years old.

The weekend concludes with the Philharmonic's debut performance at 3 Stages at Folsom Lake College. The \$50 million, 80,000 square foot performance complex in Folsom -



opens its doors for the first time in February.

Beethoven Symphony No. 7 will be performed on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. and *Beethoven & Beyond* will be performed on Sunday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. with special youth activities beginning at 1 p.m. Both concerts will be at the Sacramento Community Center Theatre. The concert at 3 Stages at Folsom Lake College will be at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets and more information, call 916-808-5181 or visit www.sacphil.org.

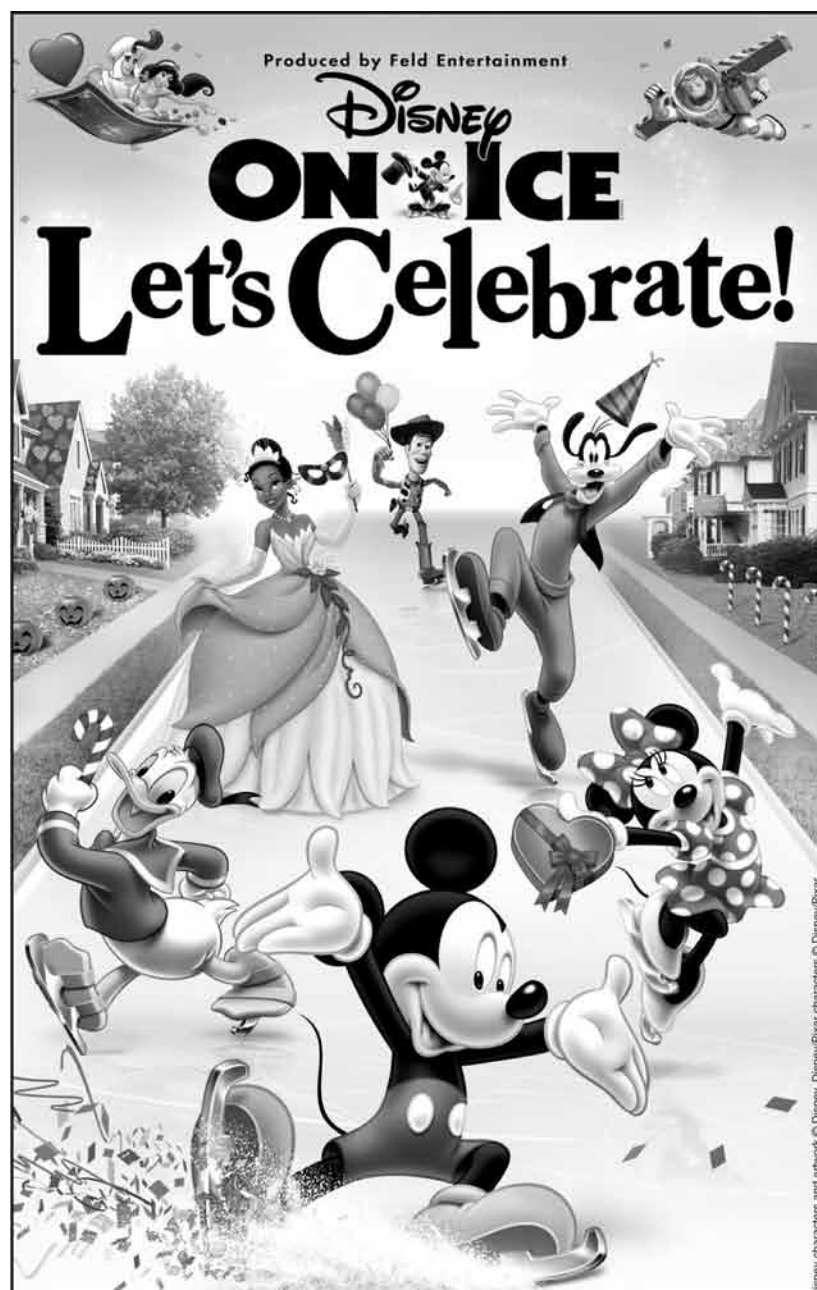
Editor's note: Much of the background information for this article was gleaned from an article by Michael Winerip that appeared in the New York Times on Nov. 13, 2009.

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Calendar Feb.

compiled by Charles Peer

Friday, 11

LOVE BITES OFF BROADWAY

Valentine's Day moods of despair and disappointment that arise when love is lost, betrayed or mistaken for a hat are highlighted in this musical/comedy tribute to love gone astray by the SF L&G Chorus. 8 p.m. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. Info: 800-838-3006 lgcsf.org

OSCAR'S SHORT FILMS 2011

Here's your opportunity to see the Oscar nominated short films before the Academy Award ceremony. Through Feb. 17. The Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Info: TheCrest.com

NATIVE AMERICAN ART

Native American artist Hock E Aye Vi - Edgar Heap of Birds - will be the guest at a reception showcasing his work. Free. 5:30 - 7 p.m. Mariposa Hall, Rm. 100, CSUS, 6000 J St. His art will also be on display at La Raza Galeria Posad through April 2. Info: larazagalerialaposada.org

Saturday, 12

MILITARY DIRTY WORDS

Mr. Bolt 2011 Lance Navarro hosts this night of erotic readings

with a military bent host by the Lavender Library. Plus a no host bar, appetizers and desserts, raffles and giveaways and some special performances. 7:30 p.m. \$15 (benefit for the Lavender Library and Lambda Players). Lambda Theatre, 1127 21st St. Info: LavenderLibrary.com

LA DANSE DU VALENTINE

Jammin' Jo is spinning all your romantic favorites to get you in the mood for passion at this dance for lovers. 7 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. \$15 (\$10 in advance). Club 21, 1119 21st St. Info: JamminJo.com

CHEESE & CHOCOLATE

Can a Valentine's Day treat get any more seductive than cheese & chocolate? Let Taylor's cheesemonger Felicia Johnson show you how to wow at this class on pairing wine, cheese & chocolate. \$25. 1 p.m. Taylor's Kitchen, 2924 Freeport Blvd. Info: Felicia, 916-443-6881 TaylorsKitchen.net

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first openly transgender trial judge. 6 p.m. SF City Hall. Info: EQCA.org

Sunday, 13

DARWIN BIRTHDAY GALA
Guest speaker Dr. Barbara Forrest talks about *Back to the Future* (or *What We Can Learn from Louisiana's Science Education Act?*) \$10. 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Rd., Carmichael. Info: sacdarwinday.blogspot.com

Monday, 14

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS
Join the LGBT Democrats for their monthly meeting, with guest speakers and discussions of current political events. Social, 6 p.m., meeting, 6:30 p.m. Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane. Info: 916-441-1787 SacStonewall.org

VICTOR/VICTORIA VALENTINE
A Valentine's night for jazz hot-ties of all stripes and a loving tribute to Academy Award Nominee Lesley Ann Warren live in-person. 6 p.m. with a meet & greet reception with the star followed by the gala main event starting at 8 p.m. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St. SF. Info: 415-863-0611 www.ticketfly.com

Tuesday, 15

RAINBOW CHAMBER MIXER
Join members of Sacramento's LGBT business group at their monthly mixer, for socializing and networking, hosted by *Outword* and Premier Benefit Solutions. The Van Horn Building, 1722 J St., Third Floor. 6 - 8 p.m. Info: RainbowChamber.com

Wednesday, 16

SAC PRIDE PLANNING
Help make this year's Pride and Parade the best ever. Volunteers are needed in all areas. 6:30 - 8 p.m. Sac G&L Center, 1927 L St. Info: 916-442-0185 SacCenter.org

DISNEY ON ICE
Mickey and Minnie are hosting a jam-packed celebration of all your favorite holidays. Goofy, Donald, Woody & Buzz, Ariel and Snow White have all tweeted they're coming, so join them for the party. Through Monday. ARCO Arena. Info: 800-745-3000 TicketMaster.com

Thursday, 17

PLAYLIST
Vox Musica, a 12-voiced women's ensemble, will perform *Dreams of Innocence*, a new work by Vox Musica director Daniel Paulson incorporating select texts from Gottfried Helnwein's memoirs. \$12. 6 p.m. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. RSVP: 916-808-7000 CrockerArtMuseum.org

Friday, 18

SVL FETISH NIGHT
Whatever your fetish is - from leather to sports - put on your gear and throw in some red and pink for Val's Day at this night dedicated to you and hosted by the SVL. Bolt Bar, 2560 Boxwood St. Info: 916-649-8420 SacBolt.com

ELEVATION UTAH
Four full days of non-stop fun on the slopes at this annual gay-ski week, with plenty of parties and activities to go along with great skiing and boarding. Info: www.tomwhitmanpresents.com

Saturday, 19

BASICALLY BEETHOVEN
The Sac. Philharmonic's yearly tribute to Beethoven is back, with Beethoven's 7th Symphony, paired with pianist Sara Davis Buechner in one of Mozart's greatest works. 8 p.m. Community Center Theatre. Info: SacPhil.org

Sunday, 20

URBAN CONDITIONING WALK
Walk along the trail/levee following the American River going up river on the south side then returning for approx. 5 miles. Meet at the Big Lots parking lot at the corner of Watt & La Riviera. Dogs on leash OK. Call for start time. G&L Sierrans. Info: 916-903-6846

VALLEY BEARS BRUNCH
Combine brunch with shopping - and good friends. 10 a.m. to noon. Ikea, 700 Ikea Ct., WeSac. Info: SacBears.org

Monday, 21

CROCKER PRESIDENT'S DAY
Discover works of art celebrating the history of the U.S. on a "Patriotic Tour" at 10:15 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. From noon to 3 p.m., art making activities for children will explore the meaning of our nation's symbols and the Sacramento Youth Symphony performs patriotic songs at 2 p.m. Crocker Art Museum, CrockerArtMuseum.org

Wednesday, 23

DRAG QUEEN BINGO
Join Hamburger Patties and *Outword* for a night of very fun Bingo for Charity. Eight games, \$15. Come early for cocktails and dinner and to get a great seat, first game at 7 p.m. Hamburger Patties, 1630 J St. Info: 916-441-4340 OutwordMagazine.com



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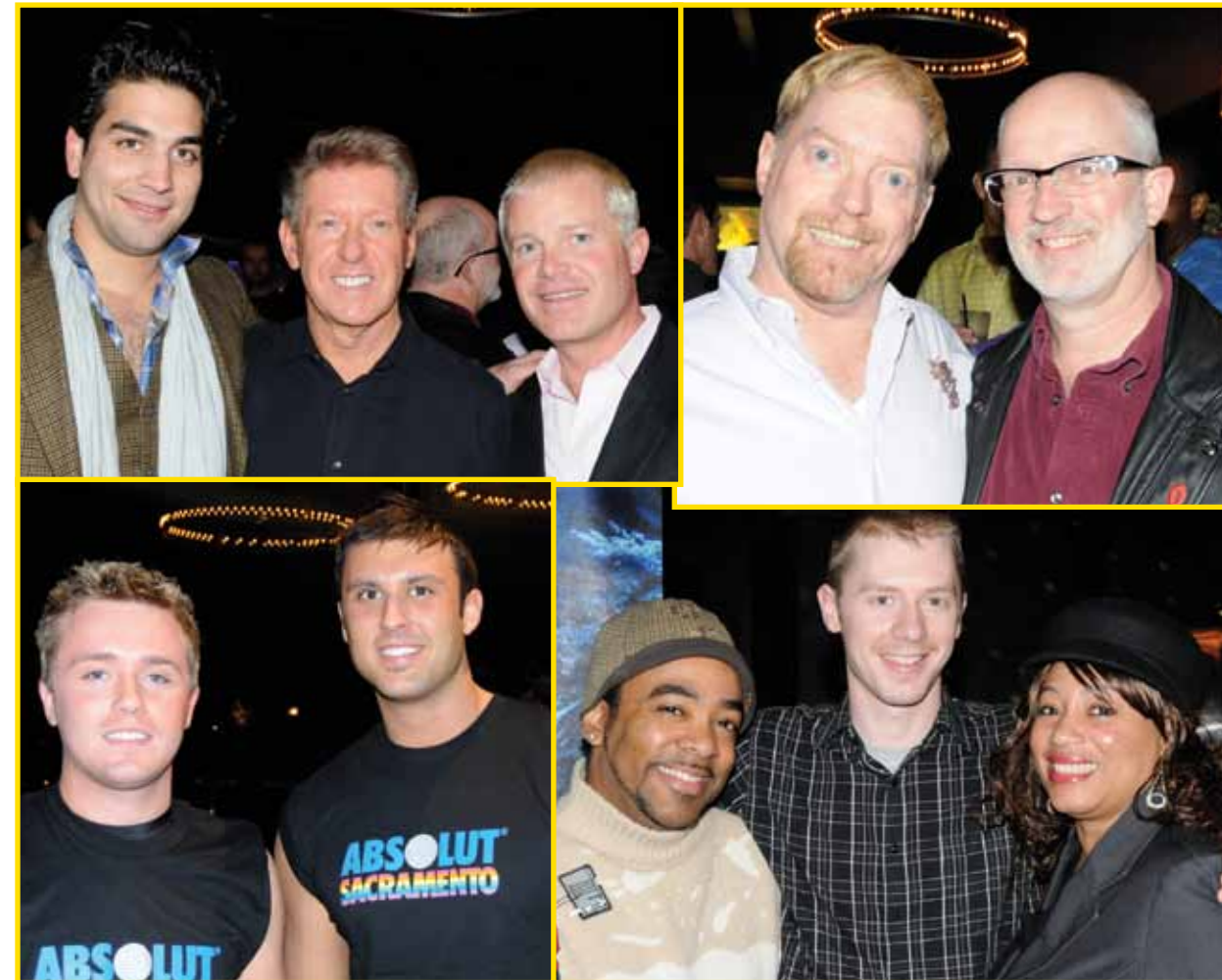
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Out & About

Oscar Preview Party Sets the Stage for Main Event

The Capital City AIDS Fund hosted an Oscar's Preview Party at Badlands on January 28, to help raise awareness for the main event, Oscar Night Sacramento 2011, scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 27. This year's Oscar Night will feature live entertainment by Deborah Lyall, formerly with Romeo Void, and is being held at a new, larger location in Natomas. For more information, visit CapCityAIDSFund.org



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Illinois continued from page 5

extending basic dignity to all couples in our state. We commend Governor Quinn for signing this bill," said John Knight, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Project of the ACLU of Illinois.

The measure was first introduced in February of 2007 by then-newly elected Representative Greg Harris.

On December 1 of last year, the Illinois Senate approved the bill 32-24, sending the measure to Governor Quinn. That move came one day after the bill passed in the House by one vote.

"This new law reflects the triumph of hope and fairness over distortion and division," said Jill Metz, President of the ACLU of Illinois Board of Directors.

The new law counts Illinois among 17 states, plus the District of Columbia, that recognize some form of protection for committed same-sex couples - from limited

partnership rights through civil unions to marriage.

"Today marks yet another victory in the clear trend line of achieving fairness for families across the country," said James Esseks, Director of the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project.

Although the passage of civil union legislation represents an important step forward on the road toward full equality for LGBT individuals in Illinois, the ACLU continues to work to achieve the freedom to marry for all couples.

"We look forward to the day when Illinois joins other states across the nation by making marriage available for all Illinois citizens," said Colleen Connell, executive director of the ACLU of Illinois. "This new law suggests that the day of complete fairness for lesbian and gay couples is not far away in the Land of Lincoln."

The law takes effect June 1.

Bindings continued from page 6

Whenever I am confronted with the statement that same-sex marriages threatened the sanctity of marriage, I usually find myself staring at the speaker in disbelief (no matter how many times I hear it). Then I share the stories of couples I know, both gay and straight, who honor the sanctity of marriage by the keeping of their marriage vows.

If the speaker hangs around long enough, I also share stories of what does threaten the sanctity of marriage - lying, affairs, mismanaging money, lack of boundaries in other relationships and not doing the hard work of nurturing one's marriage!

The power to uphold the sanctity of marriage resides in you, with God's help!

The Reverend Kathy La Point-Collup is Pastor at the Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove. We are a reconciling congregation where all are welcome -

www.ElkGroveUMC.org

Dirty continued from page 15

Mafia, with a scene from the show featured at the event.

"We take time throughout the year to celebrate our pride, our heroes, our political victories and our community unity," said Clint Vigen, Lavender Library board president. "Sometimes we forget that our sexuality is what sets us apart in the first place, though. *Dirty Words* celebrates that gay male sexuality with the written and spoken word, something we should by no means be ashamed of."

The Feb. 12 event, which will be co-hosted by Mr. Bolt 2011 Lance

Navarro, also known for his work with Raging Stallion Studios and Hot House Productions, will celebrate the long history of gays in the military. Readers will be presenting a variety of erotic stories regarding military sex, uniform fetishes and more. This is an 18 and over only event. A *Dirty Words* for Women is being planned for the spring.

Dirty Words: Military Men, will be held on Feb. 12., tickets are \$15 at the door, and the fun starts at 7:30 p.m., at the Lambda Players Theatre, 1127 21st St. For more information, visit LavenderLibrary.com



Mr. Bolt 2011 Lance Navarro will co-host Dirty Words: Military Men

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